

Re: MORRIS MELTDOWN/MYSTERY FAX#4

DeesWatch Update 9/10/95:

'MORRIS SAYS A DIRTY WORD" or "THOSE PESKY DISGRUNTLED (BUT 'SOPHISTICATED') ALABAMA MILITIAMEN" ** Once again, DeesWatch presents the finest reportage Morris' hometown newspaper has to offer, with commentary to follow**

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER, 9/8/95: "DEPUTY AG MINIMIZES TIES TO FIRM"

"No Favors: Richard Allen flatly denies that he has profited from state legal work by his former law firm." (By John D. Alcorn, Advertiser staff Writer.)

The Montgomery law firm formerly headed by Alabama's current deputy attorney general continues to get large amounts of state legal work. But, Richard Allen says he has a true arm's-length break with Capell, Howard, Knabe & Cobbs of which he was a managing partner, even though he's heard rumors that he is funneling state legal business to the firm.

Mr. Allen said he still has a profit-sharing plan with the firm, but his account has been "frozen," with assets no longer paid into the plan in his behalf, since he joined Attorney General Jeff Sessions' staff.

A MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER examination of payment records to outside law firms in the state comptroller's office over the past 28 months showed no pattern of increase in payments to the Montgomery law firm. But those records do show a payment of \$160,580.13 to the firm between January 16, when Mr. sessions took office, and July 25. that payment was for work performed for the Alabama Medicaid Agency as part of an agreement reached between the firm and the agency "in November, before I had even talked with Jeff Sessions" about joining the staff, Mr. Allen said.

Medicaid Commissioner Gwen Williams confirmed Mr. Allen's account as to when and why the agency sought representation from the law firm. In November, "we had four major suits involving three issues," said Ms. Williams, who was the agency's chief of staff at the time. She said since formation of the agency in 1971, it "has had a long history of representation by the firm" except during the administration of former Attorney General Jimmy Evans. In November, she recommended to then-Commissioner David Toney that the agency go back to the firm, because "we had no outside counsel" and staff lawyers were struggling with an impossible workload, Ms. Williams said.

She said her recommendation came when the agency was "hit with a new federal class-action lawsuit" in November. Meanwhile, Mr. Allen has been hit by a new rumor--- or an attempted rumor-- via a bogus news

release that attempts to smear him and, by association, Mr. Sessions. Political tricksters or disgruntled Alabama militiamen are thought to be two potential sources behind the effort.

The release, which purports to be from the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, suggests the center has been involved in an investigation of alleged illegal activity by M. Allen. Morris Dees, the law center's co-founder, denied any substance to the release or any center involvement in such an investigation. Mr. Allen and Mr. Sessions flatly deny the release's allegation that Mr. Allen has profited from state legal work by his former law firm.

"That's b-----!" was Mr. Dees' reaction to a reporter's inquiry about the release and the allegations Wednesday. "That's some of this crazy stuff." Mr. Dees said the "bogus" release might have been initiated by a disgruntled Gadsden-based militia organization the center has been looking into. "We don't even know who (Mr. Allen) is (and) we don't do that kind of stuff. I think it's obvious where this came from," Mr. Dees said. "We ordinarily don't even respond to this stuff. . . . This is ridiculous." The release, called bogus by both Mr. Dees and Mr. Allen, alleges former Klanwatch director Danny Welch left the center in a dispute over an investigation into Mr. Allen's activities.

Mr. Welch has resigned and has not been available for comment, but Mr. Dees said the resignation was planned. Mr. Allen said he believes the false news release was produced by "someone very sophisticated." "Whoever did this did it to hurt Jeff Sessions," who is eyeing a potential U.S. Senate candidacy next year, Mr. Allen said. Mr. Sessions said Mr. Allen might be "the best public service bargain the state has gotten" in the wake of the November elections, crediting Mr. Allen for getting the office back onto a sound fiscal footing.

*****END OF MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER STORY*****

DeesWatch Commentary:

Well, who says paranoids can't have real enemies? And if the paranoids are right about somebody being out to get them, are they paranoid or just seeing clearer than the rest of us?

Well, the first thing I gather from this story is that somebody is lying. Now it is plain from this article that Messrs. Dees, Sessions and Allen have all concluded that it is the militia (i.e. Jeff Randall) that is the author of this "mystery fax". Of course, it is in Mr. Dees' vital interest that someone else, anyone else, other than SPLC or a former employee, be seen as the author of this apparent lie about Mr. Allen. But the one thing about the mystery fax that isn't disputed by anyone is that

it was the first to announce the resignation of Mr. Welch. Whatever false tale it weaved about the Allen-Sessions "illegality", it was right about the resignation-- and more significantly, SPLC didn't announce the resignation until they were forced to by the revelation of the "mystery fax" by DeesWatch. So, who is in a position to know about the Welch resignation, have access to SPLC stationery, and to write such a missive so believably that Mr. Allen would pronounce them "very sophisticated"?

What is needed here, absent the "vacationing" Mr. Welch, is a statement from Morris explaining why they did not announce the Welch resignation until forced to do so. How about it, Morris? How come? On the other hand, the history of Alabama politics is rife with dirty tricks, and it is not past possibility that someone opposed to Sessions' run for the Senate concocted the whole thing. But again, who had knowledge of the Welch resignation and access to SPLC stationery and could write so convincingly? Joe Bob the Militiaguy? Anybody seen Donald Segretti lately? Has he joined the militia? G.Gordon Liddy has an alibi this time. Alas, we must wait for the elusive Mr. Welch. Will he, like Godot, ever show? Stay safe, Danny Boy, stay safe. "Oh Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling,,,"

--Mike Vanderboegh, DeesWatch, P.O.Box 926, Pinson, AL 35126